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CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (original) An apparatus for clearing a clog in a pipe having an inside diameter, the apparatus comprising:
 - a hollow, collapsible, generally cylindrical bellows portion, the bellows portion having an upper end, a lower end and an inside diameter that is less than the inside diameter of the pipe at the clog thereby providing a mechanical advantage in removing the clog;
 - a handle attached to the upper end of the bellows portion; and
 - a seal attached to the lower end of the bellows portion.
2. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the seal comprises a hollow cylinder having an external surface, the external surface including at least one flange disposed thereon.
3. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the external surface of the seal includes a plurality of flanges disposed therein.
4. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein diameters of the flanges decrease in a direction away from the lower end of the bellows portion.
5. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the flanges are angled up and away from the hollow cylinder of the seal.
6. (original) A method of clearing a clog in a pipe, the pipe having an inside diameter at a location of the clog, comprising:

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providing an apparatus comprising a hollow, collapsible, generally cylindrical bellows portion, the bellows portion having an upper end, a lower end and an inside diameter that is less than the inside diameter of the pipe at the clog thereby providing a mechanical advantage in removing the clog; a handle attached to the upper end of the bellows portion; and a seal attached to the lower end of the bellows portion.

applying the seal of the apparatus to an opening of the pipe; and

compressing the bellows portion of the apparatus.

7. (withdrawn) A seal for a drain clearing apparatus, comprising:
a hollow cylinder having an external surface, the external surface including at least one flexible flange disposed thereon.
8. (withdrawn) The seal of claim 7 wherein the external surface of the seal includes a plurality of flexible flanges disposed thereon.
9. (withdrawn) The seal of claim 8 wherein diameters of the flexible flanges decrease in a direction away from the drain clearing apparatus.
10. (withdrawn) The seal of claim 9 wherein undersides of the flexible flanges are angled up and away from the hollow cylinder of the seal.
11. (withdrawn) The seal of claim 9 wherein the flexible flanges are angled up and away from the hollow cylinder of the seal.

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12. (currently amended) An A seal for a drain clearing apparatus, comprising:
a drain clearing apparatus having a seal at one end thereof, the seal comprising a hollow
truncated cone having an external surface, the external surface including at least one
flexible flange disposed thereon, a larger diameter end of the cone being attached to the
drain clearing apparatus.

13. (currently amended) The apparatus seal of claim 12 wherein the external surface of the seal includes a plurality of flexible flanges disposed thereon.

14. (currently amended) The apparatus seal of claim 13 wherein diameters of the flexible flanges decrease in a direction away from the drain clearing apparatus.

15. (currently amended) The apparatus seal of claim 14 wherein undersides of the flexible flanges are angled up and away from the hollow truncated cone of the seal.

16. (currently amended) The apparatus seal of claim 14 wherein the flexible flanges are angled up and away from the hollow truncated cone of the seal.

17. (withdrawn) A seal for a drain clearing apparatus wherein the seal is substantially donut shaped.

18. (withdrawn) The seal of claim 17 wherein the seal comprises a flexible, compressible, solid elastomeric material.

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19. (withdrawn) The seal of claim 17 wherein the seal is hollow and comprises a flexible, elastomeric material filled with a fluid.

20. (withdrawn) The seal of claim 19 wherein the fluid is air.

21. (withdrawn) A seal for a drain clearing apparatus, comprising:

a hollow, truncated conical portion;

a hollow cylindrical portion joined to the conical portion; and

a substantially donut shaped portion disposed at a junction of the conical and cylindrical portions, a larger diameter end of the conical portion being attached to the drain clearing apparatus.

22. (withdrawn) The seal of claim 21 wherein the substantially donut shaped portion comprises a compressible, solid elastomeric material.

23. (withdrawn) The seal of claim 21 wherein the substantially donut shaped portion is hollow and comprises an elastomeric material filled with a fluid.

24. (withdrawn) A drain clearing apparatus, comprising:

a force cup having a generally hemispherical shape with a closed top end and an open bottom end;

a handle attached to the closed top end; and

a generally donut shaped seal attached to the bottom end.

25. (withdrawn) The drain clearing apparatus of claim 24 wherein the donut shaped seal comprises a flexible, compressible, solid, elastomeric material.

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26. (withdrawn) The drain clearing apparatus of claim 24 wherein the donut shaped seal comprises a flexible, hollow, elastomeric material filled with a fluid.